

Testimony
House Bill No. 1048
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
February 20, 2023

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Tina Bay, Director of the Developmental Disabilities Section with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you in support of House Bill No. 1048, which was introduced at the request of the Department.

Currently, if an individual who is eligible for Developmental Disability Program Management has a need for a guardian, they are responsible for the costs associated with the establishment of guardianship. In situations where they do not have someone available to serve as their guardian, corporate guardianship may be established through our contracted entity. This proposed bill change, along with the funding request in the Executive Budget Recommendation for the Department's appropriation bill, will create a fund that will assist proposed guardians with the guardianship establishment expense. This will give individuals a viable alternative to corporate guardianship.

Section 1. The proposed change in Section 1 of this Bill is to amend subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 50-06-01.4 of the North Dakota Century Code regarding the administration of programs for individuals with disabilities. Page 1, lines 21 and 22 adds the establishment funding for family members and enhances clarity of statutory authority for the corporate guardianship program.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.